



# 'Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

*Advent Three - December 11, 2016 -  
Pastor Mark Voss*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

**C: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

P: The Lord will give you a sign. A young woman is with child and shall bear a son.

**C: And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."**

P: Every valley shall be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low;

**C: The uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**



O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come you a - right?  
Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you down to me.  
Re - joice; then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's De - light.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my li - ber - ty.  
Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed And trem - ble at your doom.



O Je - sus, let your Word be A lamp to light my way,  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing That led you to em - brace  
De - spair not; he is near you, He's stand - ing at the door



To show me how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.  
In love, all love ex - cell - ing, Our lost and fall - en race!  
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Nothing brings greater encouragement to us than the forgiveness Christ offers through his atoning work. Let us once again heed the call of John the Baptist to turn away from our sins and turn to Christ. In Jesus we will again find hope.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: The Lord has heard your confession and has sent his Son to be your perfect substitute. Therefore, as a called servant of the Word and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Dear friends in Christ, rejoice.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## SONG OF PRAISE - *"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

CW 16 vv 1-3

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## MUSICAL SELECTION – Tone Chime Choir

*"Shepherds and Angels"*

# GOD'S WORD

*In the Messiah's kingdom things are not always what they seem*

## OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 35:1-10

### *The coming of the Messiah would change everything*

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

**ALL:** Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

Matthew 11:10

## MUSICAL SELECTION -Sr. Choir

### *"My Soul in Stillness Waits"*

*The choir will introduce the refrain and sing the verses.*

*The congregation is asked to join in the refrain as prompted.*



*Refrain*

**For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits, tru-ly my hope is in you.**

## GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

### ***Fact, not fairy tale***

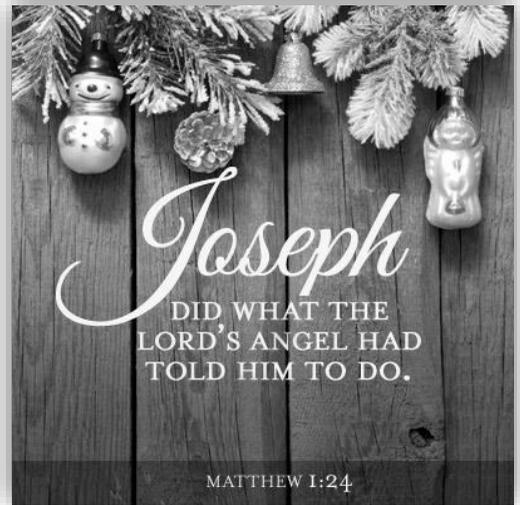
<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" --which means, "God with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son.

And he gave him the name Jesus.



## CONFESSION OF FAITH (*Martin Luther's Explanation to the Second Article*)

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.**

**All this he did that I should be his own and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

SERMON CAROL - *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"*

CW 7

# SERMON

*Based on the Gospel*

HYMN OF THE DAY – *“Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”*

CW 23

OFFERING AND SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

CHILDREN’S LESSON

PRAYERS AND LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

VERSES

P: He that testifies these things says, “I am coming soon.”

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

P: All those who await his appearance pray:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

P: The whole creation pleads:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## CLOSING VERSES

## "Prepare the Royal Highway"

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Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is  
God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal  
Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised

near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A  
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread  
King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its

lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of  
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not  
trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -

glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry  
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
- fore him! All na - tions now a - dore him!

Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

**Immanuel**  
GOD · WITH · US  
MATTHEW 1:23



**LIVING NATIVITY:** Our thanks to all those who gave of their time and talents to help share the Christmas message with so many people. Well done!

**CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS:** Next Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, from 9:30-11:30a we will be sharing the Christmas message with children ages 4 to 10. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

**FOOD DRIVE:** Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, is the last day of the food drive sponsored by our youth. Please bring your non-perishable items to COR before then. The most requested items at food banks are peanut butter, coffee, canned meat, canned tuna, cooking oil and granola bars.

**ADVENT DINNER & DEVOTION:** This Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, is our final Advent Dinner and Devotion. Our thanks to all those who have helped make this such a successful event. Our Dinner this week is a soup potluck. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 14</b>	<b>6-7:30p</b>	<b>Advent Dinner and Devotion</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>7:00p</b>	<b>RMLHS Christmas Concert at COR</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 17</b>	<b>9:30-11:30a</b>	<b>Christmas for Kids</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 18</b>	<b>9:00a</b>	<b>Children's Christmas Service</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 24</b>	<b>5 &amp; 7p</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Worship</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 25</b>	<b>9a</b>	<b>Christmas Day Worship</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 1</b>	<b>9a</b>	<b>New Year's Day Worship</b>

# Christ Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church and School

17700 East Iliff Avenue  
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Worship services Sundays  
at 8 and 10:30a and  
Thursdays at 7p

Bible Study and Sunday  
School at 9:15a

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Principal Phil Scriver  
303-337-3108  
philscriver@corchurch.com

- A warm welcome to our visitors. May the Lord bless your worship with us today. We ask that you please sign the friendship register located at the end of the pew.
- Children – Activity bags are available in the coat room, off the narthex. During our 10:30a service a staffed nursery is located straight ahead and to your left as you exit the sanctuary. While we encourage young children to be in the service, families may like to use the nursery and are invited to do so.
- Please let an usher know if you require a larger print bulletin.
- Our services can also be viewed online. Go to our website [corchurch.com](http://corchurch.com) and click on Video Broadcast.
- As a member of Christ Our Redeemer we are connected to each other through our unity of faith and the public confession of that faith in Lord's Supper. To read what our profession of faith is, go to [www.corchurch.com](http://www.corchurch.com) and click on "Our Beliefs" or take a copy of the tract "What We Believe" in the Visitor Information Center kiosk. To become a member of our church family, please speak with the pastor.